

BARRE GAZETTE

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Oakham COVID-19 cases remain at six

By Ellenor Downer
Staff Writer

OAKHAM – Aaron Langlois, public health nurse for Oakham, said that the total number of COVID-19 cases for the town remained at six. He said three cases are active and one of the three would be off the active list soon.

He said the winery in town could open during phase 3 if they applied for a food truck permit and would be able to serve wine outside. Otherwise, they would open in phase 4. He also said that new legislation allow for remote town meeting. Town meeting is scheduled for June 30 in the municipal building. He said the municipal building location allowed for social distancing and if good weather the bay doors could be opened to improve ventilation. People could opt to sit outside the doors as well.

Finance committee

Selectmen met with members of the finance committee during a remote meeting June 8. All school departments received notification not to expect state funding for Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and COVID-19 related expenses when school opens. Class size will be limited to ten students per classroom. Additional costs if school opens in the fall could reach about one million dollars.

Town accountant Thomas Wilson said the elementary school roof debt ended this year. He recommended that the town go with the school assessment. He said he doubted that Hardwick and Hubbardston would approve the amount presented by the school committee. He said it would spare Oakham having to hold an extra town meeting. The finance committee also recommended the school requested amount. Selectman chair Bradford Taylor said he recommended a 2.5 percent increase for the school. It would save the town about \$85,000. Clare Hendra of the finance committee said the selectmen could amend the school

See OAKHAM, page 5

Select board accepts Charter proposal

NEW BRAINTREE – Wednesday, May 27, the New Braintree select board voted to accept a proposal by Charter Communications to construct a network that will provide coverage of at least 96% percent of residential premises located along the public right of way in town. The town will be working with the Massachusetts Broadband Institute to utilize a grant award to Charter and the town will be responsible for a balance of \$342,400, payable to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts over a twenty year period. New Braintree residents will have the opportunity to use all of Charter Communications resources, not only Internet. This project will take approximately two years to complete.

Quabbin seniors celebrate with

Graduation Parade



Cars containing members of the Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2020 head along South Street in Barre following a parade route that went through Wheelwright, part of New Braintree, Barre and Hubbardston.

BARRE – Saturday, June 6 Quabbin Regional High School Class of 2020 seniors participated in a graduation parade on the weekend the graduation was to be held before the pandemic hit. The graduation ceremony is now scheduled for Friday, Aug. 7.

The parade began and ended at Quabbin Regional High School, 800 South St. The route went through Wheelwright, took a left over the bridge at the Hardwick/New Braintree line and turned onto Rte. 67 through South Barre. The parade took Valley Road in Barre to Rte. 62 to Hubbardston, left onto Barre Road, through the center and then onto Williamsville Road back to Barre.

Turley Publications Photos
by Ellenor Downer

Fire trucks, police cruisers and ambulances participated in the graduation parade held last Saturday, June 6, 2020.



Hardwick to hold Town Election on June 16 at Hardwick Elementary

Special and Annual Town Meetings also scheduled

HARDWICK -- In accordance with Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, the Board of Selectmen have voted to reschedule the Hardwick Annual Town Election from Monday, April 13, to Tuesday, June 16, at the Hardwick Elementary School located at 76 School House Drive. This law also established and allowed for several things relevant to voter registration, the election date, ballots and other materials, voting in

person and alternatives to voting in person such as absentee voting.

In addition Governor Charles Baker signed a COVID-19 Order #13, on March 23, which limits gathering to 10 or fewer people. Order #13 shall not apply to any municipal legislative body, the General Court or the Judiciary. That being said a notice of the rescheduled election date and a sample ballot are available on the town's website www.townofhardwick.com and on www.mytown-government.org/01031.

A voter registration session took place at the Municipal Building, 307 Main St, on Friday,

June 5, from 2 to 4 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. The Town Clerk will be working during those hours and will be available by phone at 413-477-6700, ext. 104, to assist anyone needing help registering to vote or who have questions pertaining to their voter registration status or the election. Persons who are U.S. citizens, residents of Hardwick, and who will be at least 18 years old on or before June 16 are eligible to register. Those residents meeting these qualifications (who are not already registered to vote in Hardwick) and who have a Massachusetts driver's license can submit their registration online

at www.RegisterToVoteMA.com, or print and sign the Voter Registration Form and return it to Town Clerk, P.O. Box 575, Gilbertville, MA, 01031, or drop the form into the drop box located outside, near the main entrance of the Municipal Building. Voter registration forms are also available at most post offices.

The law authorizes the Town to use election materials originally prepared with the original election date. Therefore, we will be using the official and absentee ballots that were prepared and dated for the April 13 Annual Town Election. A sample ballot is

available for your perusal at the Town's website www.townofhardwick.com.

People who are taking precautions related to COVID-19, or are physically unable to come to the polls due to a disability, or will be absent from town during voting hours, or due to religious beliefs is unable to vote in person at the polls, or if they would just prefer not to come to the polls to vote on Election Day, may request an Absentee Ballot to Early Vote. Early Vote-Absentee Ballot appli-

See HARDWICK ELECTION, page 6

Flower gardens brighten the world



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

This perennial garden is in front of the Oakham Congregational Church in the center of Oakham. The lupine and rhododendron stand out.

Summer send off 2020

NORTH BROOKFIELD – On Wednesday, June 3, North Brookfield Elementary School staff school distributed student belongings, a bag of summer reading books, and a bag of summer fun goodies to students as they drove through the bus lane. Staff and families practiced social distancing and other safety measures to ensure that the event was as successful as it could be.

"It was a bittersweet day of saying goodbye for the summer, and it provided a sense of closure in an emotionally fulfilling way," said NBES Elementary School Principal Sarah Priestly. "Thank you to everyone who helped make it possible."



Turley Publications Courtesy photo

Families drove up last week to the school where staff were waiting for them with books to read this summer and other supplies. See more photos on page 6.

BARRE GAZETTE

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News of the Towns



Round Town
Ellenor Downer
413-967-3505

Barre has summer water limits

Per the Water Management Act Withdrawal Permit, issued by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, the Barre Water Commissioners must enforce summer limits on water withdrawal to protect stream flow for aquatic life and ensure a sustainable drinking water supply. Residential outdoor water use will be allowed on Tuesdays and Thursdays only after 5 p.m. from now through Sept. 30. The water commissioners encourage all its customers to be aware of the amount of water that is being used and to conserve and protect the valuable drinking water resources. If people have any questions, they may contact 978-355-5013 or via email to dpw@townofbarre.com.

Food pantry distribution
The next Barre Food Pantry distribution will occur Thursday, June 18 from 5:30-7 p.m. The Barre Food Pantry wants to continue to fulfill its mission to get food to hungry and food insecure clients. The pantry must also continue to protect clients, volunteers and the larger community from the catastrophic spread of the novel COVID-19 to which no one has immunity. Many clients and volunteers are classified as high-risk due to their age and/or underlying health conditions. As in the late March, April and May distributions, in order to maintain safe physical distances between volunteers and between volunteers and clients, June 10 and 18 will again be “drive-through” style distributions. Clients will line up in their vehicles on Park Street and proceed into the right hand (east) entrance driveway of the Barre Congregational Church.

Farmers’ market
The Barre Farmers’ Market is Saturdays at 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on the Barre Common. The farmers’ market runs from May to October.

Town election June 2
The Barre Board of Selectmen voted to hold the annual town election Tuesday, June 23 at its April 21 meeting. Both precincts will be open and polling hours are 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

QRSD meal distribution days
The Quabbin Regional School District Food Service Department is distributing breakfast and lunch for all students in the district, age 18 and under. People do not have to attend a Quabbin school to participate. Distribution takes place every Monday, Wednesday and Friday while school is closed. Grab and Go

See **ROUND TOWN**, page 5

Sheriff’ holds correctional officers graduation



Turley Publications Courtesy Photos

At center, a masked Worcester County Sheriff Lew Evangelidis is pictured with the masked recruits of Basic Recruit Training Academy #53, who graduated to become Correctional Officers on Friday, May 22 in a small, private ceremony held on the grounds of the Sheriff’s Department.

WEST BOYLSTON – With his newest class of eleven recruits ready to graduate after completing numerous interviews, mental health screenings, physical fitness metrics and a rigorous twelve-week academy at the Worcester County Sheriff’s Office, Sheriff Lew Evangelidis and his department were ready for their latest recruits to take their official oath and begin active duty on the line at their correctional facility.

A normal rite of passage for the fifty-two previous Basic Recruit Training Academies has been a large graduation ceremony full of Sheriff’s Department traditions with friends and family. Many of the ceremonies are held at Anna Maria College in Paxton. This year’s WCSO Basic Recruit Training Academy #53, like graduation ceremonies around the country in the era of Coronavirus, was very different.

A private, socially distanced and masked ceremony provided by Sheriff Evangelidis was held

on the grounds of the Sheriff’s Department. In all, eleven recruits and a small group of the training staff were in attendance. During the very brief ceremony, a masked Sheriff Evangelidis thanked the recruits for “stepping up to assist the Department in our critical mission of public safety, especially during this challenging time that we all find ourselves in.” The sheriff said, “could not be more proud of this class.” Officer Ryan Walsh of Barre was one of the graduating recruits.

During the ceremony, the recruits avoided the traditional cadence style entrance, presenting of the colors and customary pinning. Instead, eleven recruits remained stoic, masked and socially distanced in their seats until it was time to stand to take their official oath as correctional officers. All were grateful to have a ceremony, which was streamed on Facebook Live for their families to see.

“In this uncertain time, we felt it was important to recognize



Officer Ryan Walsh of Barre was a recent graduate of Worcester County Sheriff’s Office Basic Recruit Training Academy #53.

the hard work and accomplishments of our newest correctional officers. I know the recruits and their families appreciated the small, safe and private ceremony we provided.” Evangelidis continued. “Now, they will begin the important work done every day at the Sheriff’s Department to help protect public safety and make Worcester County a safer place,” said Evangelidis.

Senator Gobi’s office offers remote availability

BOSTON — While the Massachusetts State House remains closed to the public amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, Senator Anne Gobi (D-Spencer) and her staff remain available and ready to help. Though quarantine has kept them physically distant, this crisis has only served to strengthen the sense of community. To better serve constituents during these times, Sen. Gobi and her staff have put together a COVID-19 resource list, which may be found at SenatorAnneGobi.com/COVID-19.html.

The team is available by phone or email. People may call 617-722-1540 and leave a message. The appropriate staff member will be in touch. Her email address is Anne.Gobi@MASenate.gov and her chief of staff can be reached at William.Loosemore@MASenate.gov.

Hubbardston

Ellenor Downer
edowner@turley.com



Library to offer curbside pickup

The Hubbardston Public Library, 7 Main St., will begin curbside pickup Monday, June 15. Only Hubbardston Public Library items are available for lending. People may check out the library website at www.hubbardstonpubliclibrary.org or the Hubbardston Public Library Facebook page for more information.

SHINE counselor

SHINE Medicare counseling with Glen Gregory will be available by scheduling an appointment with the Hubbardston Senior Center by calling 978-928-1400, extension 211. The counseling will be conducted by phone until further notice.

Egg delivery time

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed for the time being. The time for egg delivery on Fridays changed to 10 a.m. to noon. There will be no fresh produce until further notice. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Barre Dining Center

BARRE — Elder Services of Worcester Area Nutrition Program welcomes guests to dine at the Barre Senior Center, 557 South Barre Road. The following meals will be served for the week of June 15.

Meal sites are closed and there is only Meals on Wheels delivery.

Volunteers are needed at the Barre dining site. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels (mileage reimbursement) and in the kitchen. People should contact 978-355-5027.

MON. – Broccoli and cheese stuffed chicken, mashed potatoes, roasted California blend, baked apples, peasant white bread

TUES. – Spaghetti and meatballs, green beans, peach crisp, diet = peaches, Italian bread

WED. – Potato crunch fish, herbed potatoes, carrots, pear streusel cake, diet = half piece, pumpernickel bread

THURS. – Baked ham, mashed sweet potatoes, peas and onions, strawberry shortcake, diet = strawberries/whip, marble rye bread

FRI. – Garlic herbed chicken, bread stuffing, roasted Brussels sprouts, vanilla mousse, whole wheat bread

*Diabetic friendly dessert

**Higher sodium entree

Meal includes milk and margarine. Menus are subject to change. All meals are served at about 11:45 a.m. each weekday. Reservations should be made the day before by calling 978-355-5027 before 10:30 a.m. The donation of \$2.50 per meal helps keep the program running.

New Braintree ATM set for June 24

NEW BRAintree – The Annual Town Meeting (ATM) date moved to Wednesday, June 24 at 7 p.m. The meeting will take place at either the New Braintree Town Hall or the New Braintree Grade School gymnasium, due to restrictions on social distancing. More information will follow via email and reverse 911.

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News of the Towns

PUBLIC MEETINGS

Note: All meetings are closed to the public and will be held remotely.

BARRE

Finance Committee – June 11 at 6:30 p.m.
QRSD School Committee – June 11 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – June 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Assessors – June 16 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board – June 16 at 7 p.m.
Annual Town Election – June 23 from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Cemetery Commission – June 25 at 11 a.m.
Annual Town Meeting – June 30 at 6:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – July 1 at 1 p.m.
Barre Housing Authority – July 2 at 3 p.m.
Historical Commission – July 6 at 7 p.m.
Felton Field Commission – July 7 at 6:30 p.m.

HARDWICK

Council on Aging – June 11 at 9:30 a.m.
Gilbertville Water District – June 16 at 5:30 p.m.
Recycling Commission – June 16 and July 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – June 16 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Selectmen – June 22, July 6 and July 20 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – July 2 at 6:30 p.m.
Paige Library Trustees – July 2 at 7 p.m.
Gilbertville-Wheelwright Sewer Commissioners – July 6 at 6:30 p.m.

HUBBARDSTON

Planning Board – June 17 and July 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Open Space Committee – June 30 and July 28 at 7 p.m.
Conservation Commission – July 7 at 7 p.m.

NEW BRAINTREE

Annual Town Election – June 13 from noon-4 p.m.
Annual Town Meeting – June 24 at 7 p.m.

PETERSHAM

Cemetery Commission – June 11 at 7 p.m.
Nichewaug Inn and Academy Committee 2020 – June 15 at 6:30 p.m.
Board of Health – June 18 and July 2 at 7 p.m.
Petersham Historic District – June 18 at 7 p.m.
Planning Board – June 25 at 7 p.m.
Open Space and Recreation Committee – July 7 at 6:30 p.m.
Conservation Commission – July 7 at 7:30 p.m.
Council on Aging – Aug. 20 at 10 a.m.

RUTLAND

Virtual Pole hearing – June 15 at 6 p.m.
Planning Board Public Hearing – June 17 at 6:30 p.m.
Annual Town Election – June 22

Postponements and cancellations due to the coronavirus pandemic

MOC CFCE temporarily suspended playgroups and other family events until at least through June. Governor Baker declared a state of emergency hoping to contain the spread of the coronavirus across the Commonwealth. The Parent Child Plus program will continue to operate with your Early Learning Specialist continuing to visit with enrolled.

Massachusetts 4-H programs, activities and club meetings are cancelled until further notice. This includes advisory councils, fair boards, horse advisories and events. Groups are allowed to meet virtually.

Hubbardston Senior Center, 7A Main St., Hubbardston is closed until at least through June. The time for egg delivery on Fridays changed to 10 a.m. to noon. There will be no fresh produce until further notice. People may call the senior center at 978-928-1400, extension 211 with any questions.

Fobes Memorial Library in Oakham will be closed to the public until at least through June 8. Library staff will be available to answer calls and assist with digital resources.

All Barre Town Buildings will be closed at least until at least through June 8 to the public, except by appointment and include the Henry Woods Building, Woods Memorial Library, the Council on Aging

(senior center), old Town Hall, the public safety building, fire stations and DPW. Please call an office before visiting in many cases staff is able to assist over the phone or by mail. Meals on Wheels program and wellness checks for seniors will continue.

The town of Hubbardston is closing all town buildings to the public until at least through June 8. Offices will continue to provide services of the government to residents. The closure will result in the delivery of services remotely. All public safety operations will continue.

EQLT rescheduled its accessible trail workday to June 21.

The Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announced the Quabbin Visitor's Center is closed to the public, though the property is accessible. Those accessing the property are reminded that vehicles must exit at the posted time.

The Grandview Tenants Association has changed their annual raffle and bazaar from the beginning of June to the beginning of October this year.

Because the safety of auxiliary members is the major concern, all American Legion Post 2 Auxiliary functions have been cancelled until further notice. Members will be kept informed as to when meetings will resume.

Wachusett Greenways events are cancelled through June 30. During this time the portable restrooms are removed from the Mass Central Rail Trail to protect from spreading the virus. Please greet others on the trail with a smile or wave as you pass at a good distance. Do not pass closely or draw near to people or pets on the trail.

Massachusetts Wildlife Management Areas are open, fishing is open and trout stocking will continue.

Bay State Equine Rescue (BSER) president Susan Sheridan announced the cancellation of the 5K Run Like the Dickens slated for July 12, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Historically, the race has been very well attended, but the safety and well-being of the runners, supporters and volunteers is the top priority. The race is held at Old Sturbridge Village.

Holden Days scheduled for Aug. 22 has been cancelled. It will return next year Aug. 28, 2021.

Sterling Fair scheduled for Sept. 11-13 has been cancelled. It will return in 2021.

1794 Meetinghouse in New Salem is sad to report that their entire summer season has been canceled due to COVID-19, and the need for continued care and social distancing.

1794 Meetinghouse cancels summer concert series

NEW SALEM — The 1794 Meetinghouse is sad to report that their entire summer season has been canceled due to COVID-19 and the need for continued care and social distancing. They booked a wonderful line up of performances. They are hoping to re-book many of the 2020 performances for a resurgent season in 2021. They are also talking with some performers about the possibility of live-streaming a concert on or near their original dates; none of these arrangements have been

finalized yet.

Needless to say, the loss of the programs is hitting 1794 Meetinghouse, their performers, and their business supporters and advertisers very hard. Please visit performer websites, buy their music, watch their online videos and listen to their own live-streamed concerts. They will provide links on their website and in email announcements. When people can, patronize the local businesses; they want and need to bounce back as quickly as possible once it is safe to do so.

Those that can, please support 1794 Meetinghouse. In the absence of summer events they have been hit hard financially. In the absence of concerts, they hope to get some renovations started, but they need funding for that too. If people can help, in any way, their support will be greatly appreciated.

Donations can be made online via their website at <https://1794meetinghouse.org/product/donate/> or by check and mailed to: 1794 Meetinghouse, P.O. Box 8, New Salem, MA 01355.

Governor signs bill to allow towns operating flexibility

BOSTON – Governor Baker signed a bill passed by the Massachusetts State Senate and Massachusetts House of Representatives to provide governance and fiscal flexibility for many municipalities grappling with public health challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Building off of other legislation that gave municipalities operating flexibility during the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis, the bill further protects public health and preserves the town meeting structure from continued disruptions caused by the state of emergency.

The bill includes the following

provisions:

Permits representative town meeting to take place virtually.

Permits quorum reduction for open town meeting to no less than 10 percent and extends the quorum reduction to representative town meeting;

Allows town meeting to be held outside the geographic limits of the town.

Permits a municipal election scheduled through June 31 to be extended to Aug. 1 at the latest.

By providing municipalities with this much-needed flexibility, the bill preserves public access to the proceedings of town governance and protects the public from

the continued health risks associated with the COVID-19 outbreak.

The bill also provides city governments with fiscal relief by allowing mayors to delay their normal budget submission deadline for FY 2021 in light of the state of emergency.

Finally, among other provisions, the bill strengthens the prohibition on terminating essential services for residents during the COVID-19 emergency and provides municipalities and regional school districts flexibility in paying school bus and other vendor contracts. For more information on the bill, people may contact Senator Gobi's office at 617-722-1540.

Oakham

Ellenor Downer

edowner@turley.com



COA to hold summer cookout

Although the Oakham Senior Center has been closed, the Oakham Column of Aging (COA) has been quite busy during these past months working for the seniors and planning for the future. Recently the COA set up a partnership with the Oakham Fire Department and will offer the annual summer cook-out Saturday, July 11 from 11:45 a.m. to 12:35 p.m. In keeping with the coronavirus protocols, all meals will be ordered in advance, personally prepared by the COA and professionally grilled by the fire department, packaged in a take-out containers and then will be delivered by senior center volunteers to all customers. The meals will be left by the entry doors of the homes for contactless deliveries between 11:45 a.m. and 12:35 p.m. Drivers and cooks will be wearing masks and gloves. People should plan to be at home when their meal arrives. This program has been approved by the board of health. The menu will consist of hot dog, hamburger, or cheeseburger, rolls, potato salad or macaroni salad, a vegetable, juice box, small bag of chips, a slice of watermelon and a dessert. There is no charge for this delicious take out lunch. To place an order, call Lucy at 508-882-3358 or Pauline at 508-882-5215 on or before July 3 and be sure to give choice of meat and salad. There is no charge for the lunch.

Annual town meetings

The annual town meeting will be held Tuesday, June 30 at 7 p.m. at the municipal building, Barre Road. A special town meeting will be held at 6:45 p.m. prior to the annual town meeting at 7 p.m.

Church services

Sunday, June 14 the Oakham Congregational Church will hold its 10 a.m. worship service. Weather permitting it will be held outside on the common. People should bring their own chair and wear a mask. If it rains, services will be inside the church. People will be directed to an entrance and will practice social distancing in the sanctuary.

Volunteers

The board of selectmen currently seeks volunteers to serve on the board of health and finance committee. People interested should contact the Board of Selectmen's Office at 508-882-5549, extension 300 or email ashley.sturges@oakham-ma.gov.

CMGS posts update

Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society (CMGS) is still not meeting in person for the time being. People may visit them online at <http://www.cmgs.org> and find them on Facebook at Central Massachusetts Genealogical Society.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren offers Zoom support group

WORCESTER –Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Zoom support group will be held Thursday, June 11 at 2 p.m. Emily from the Worcester Family Resource Center is the featured speaker. This will be a great opportunity for grandparents to hear about a local resource that can help with services, even during COVID-19. The Worcester Family Resource Center is doing some amazing outreach with families during this time; they also work with Health Law Advocates, which some may be interested in learning about.

Future dates include the following Thursdays: June 25, July 9, July 23, Aug. 6, Aug. 20, and Sept. 3, all at 2 p.m.

People should RSVP for the meetings by contacting ddfoley@eswa.org.

Fidelity Bank donates to Barre Food Pantry

LEOMINSTER – Fidelity Bank is reaching out to support the people of Barre, who are negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The bank has donated \$1,000 to the Barre Food Pantry. The Barre Food Pantry located at Barre Congregational Church on Park Street serves anyone, who seeks emergency food assistance. They have been doing drive through food distributions during COVID-19. Barre is one of 14 locations where Fidelity Bank has full-service offices.

The money comes from Fidelity Bank's LifeDesign Community Dividend, which donated more than \$330,000 to more than 250 worthy organizations in Central Massachusetts last year. "We all have a duty to reach out to those in need who are enduring tough times due to the COVID-19 pandemic," says Fidelity Bank Chairman and CEO Edward F. Manzi Jr. "It's part of Fidelity Bank's promise of being a caring bank that supports our community, clients, and colleagues." Fidelity Bank has given out more than \$2 million since the dividend program was formally named in 2013.

Founded in 1888, Fidelity Bank is one of the oldest independent community banks in Central Massachusetts. It offers 14 full-service offices in Leominster, Worcester, Fitchburg, Needham, Gardner, Stow, Shirley, Barre, Millbury, Paxton, Princeton and Winchendon.

Corrections policy

The Barre Gazette will gladly correct factual errors that appear in this paper. Corrections or clarifications will always appear on Page 2. To request a correction, send information to Editor Ellenor Downer at barrenews@turley.com or call 978-355-4000. Corrections may also be requested in writing at Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

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We wish everyone good health and good luck during these difficult times.

11 Exchange Street, Barre 978-355-3536

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Opinion

Editorial

A graduation like no other

This year high school and college seniors experienced a graduation like no other. COVID-19 caused schools to send students home and have them finish out the year remotely. Virtual graduation ceremonies become the norm.

If things had not changed, this past weekend Quabbin Regional High School seniors would hold the usual graduation ceremony. Wearing caps and gowns, they would march out of the front entrance to the high school, walk down the front lawn and sat in the bleachers.

Friday, June 5 they held the baccalaureate and awards night in cars parked in the school lot, tuned to a radio frequency instead of being in the school gym. This past Saturday, many graduating seniors participated in a graduation parade that traveled through Barre, part of Hardwick, New Braintree and Hubbardston. People gathered along the parade route to wave at the passing seniors, who proudly honked car horns as they passed. Town police officers and firefighters drove cruisers and fire trucks in the parade with a Barre police cruiser and fire truck leading the parade.

Normally, the Barre Gazette publishes a graduation supplement following Quabbin Regional High School's graduation. It includes photos of the graduates, their future plans, photos of the graduation ceremony, a list student awards, congratulation ads from local businesses and more. This year the supplement will still be published, but it will come out in August after the rescheduled graduation on Aug. 7.

A large banner graces the front lawn of Quabbin High School congratulating the Class of 2020. Small signs sit in front of the banner. These same signs appear on resident's lawns throughout the towns where the graduates live. Some have the name of a graduate and others just the Class of 2020.

The Class of 2020 and all other students had their school year disrupted in mid-March due to the pandemic. Schools closed and children switched from classroom instruction to remote learning at home. Teachers provided online instruction and parents stepped up to help their children with their school-work.

There is no question it has been a graduation like not other for the Class of 2020. Someday, they will tell their children about their graduation. Congratulations to the Class of 2020 as they move toward their future in a different world.

Letter to The Editor

Planning Board member responds to candidate statement

As a member of the Barre Planning Board, I am responding to a candidate that is running for a Planning Board seat, Ralph Hallowell Rogers, III. In his candidacy write-up, he stated that there are members on the Planning Board that are not taking the best interest of Barre into consideration. This is not true.

The Planning Board promotes business in Barre, but it has a more important role which is to protect the residents of this beautiful town from impacts.

A marijuana business will be good for one or two businesses in this town, but the Planning Board strongly feel that the residents need to have a voice and the board fought very hard for them. Do you want a marijuana growing facility or business adjacent to your place of resident, next to your town commons, church, school or areas where children play? I know I don't. Mr. Rogers was not concerned with that.

The Planning Board also had concerns from some citizens regarding how much solar facilities are going to be allowed in town and the setbacks from residents. This Planning Board went to a town meeting to amend the solar bylaw for these residents. Mr. Rogers was not in support.

If you want to know who the members of the Planning Board that fought hard for residents' rights, request a copy of the minutes.

The reason bylaws are voted on at town meetings is so the voting residents have a say by approving or disapproving the bylaws. The Planning Board role is to uphold the conditions in all bylaws that were voted by the citizens of the town of Barre.

This is very disheartening to see a member of a board criticizing other members via newspaper and social media in his candidacy write-up.

Frank LaRange
Barre Planning Board Member

PERIODICAL POSTAGE PAID AT BARRE, MA
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Ellenor Downer



5 years ago (June 11, 2015)

Almost a year after completing his Eagle Project, Samuel J. Arcikowski of Oakham earned Scouting's highest rank. Boy Scout Troop 141 held an Eagle Court of Honor ceremony on May 16 at Naquag Elementary School. He is the son of Edward and Kathy Arcikowski and has a younger brother, Josh, in Boy Scouts. Sam is a 2014 graduate of Pathfinder Regional Vocational Technical High School in Palmer and is now a student at Quinsigamond Community College in Worcester. In his senior year of high school, he started work on his Eagle Project with the help of other Boy Scouts in his troop. The project included replacing a damaged footbridge and performing trail maintenance on the East Quabbin Land Trust's (EQLT) Moose Brook Preserve Trail in Hardwick. Leader Home Center in Barre donated the lumber for the bridges.

When the idea came to her at school one afternoon, MacKenzie Coffman, a junior at Quabbin Regional High School, knew she had to try to bring it to life. "I see professional artists and art students coming together to talk about mental health issues, sharing their images, spoken word poetry, and dance, to show people that mental illness isn't what people think it is." "Transcendent: visions of mental illness and mental health" will be held in the Petersham Town Hall. The show is made possible in part by funding from the Petersham Cultural Council. Proceeds will go to Abby's House, a 501©3 non-profit organization in Worcester that shelters homeless women and children, many suffering from mental health issues. Coffman, who intends to study psychology when she enters college, volunteers regularly at Abby's House. She said she's driven to help the organization because it offers a place for women to get back on their feet. "Abby's House has a huge impact on women's lives. That's what I want the show to do, also."

Recently, the Quabbin Regional Retired Teachers' Association (QRRTA) held a contest for the design of the association's letterhead and newsletter among the graphic arts students at Quabbin Regional High School. The 53 members of the QRRTA decided the winner. First place went to Mason Prentiss, a senior. Tie for second place went to Anna Barry, Cara Michalik and Erin Navin. The QRRTA also provides a scholarship every year to a future teacher.

10 years ago (June 17, 2010)

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award young teen Girl Scouts can achieve. It recognizes a girl's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and her community as she grows and works to improve her life and the lives of others. The first four requirements of the Girl Scout Silver Award help girls build skills, explore careers, gain leadership skills and make a commitment to self-improvement. The Girl Scouts' 40-hour service project, "Voices for Veterans/Troops Supporting Troops," was selected

LOOK BACK
Car Show - 2001



Turley Publications File Photo

Ryan McCaffrey, age 5, helps his mother, Carrie, clean the windows in the 1974 Camaro they were entering in the car show on Friday night at Oakham's Old Tyme Yankee Fair.

to develop programs to support and recognize veterans in the community. The project was comprised of a letter/holiday card campaign, which cumulated in 550 letters and cards being delivered to local veterans, a veteran's dinner and a cookie campaign to benefit the Montachusett Veterans Outreach Center. According to co-leaders Mary Beauregard and Donna Farrell, the girls held very strongly that when troops come home, they need support as they do when they are away. Eleven Hubbardston Cadette Girl Scouts from Troop #30619: Stephanie Pederson, Callie Carmosino, Julia Stokes, Lauren Beauregard, Emma Kinnear, Jacqueline Galvinhill, Rachel Anderson, Caroline Galvinhill, Sarah York, Victoria Farrell and Jordan Euvard were honored by Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts in recognition of receiving their Silver Award.

Oakham resident Maura O'Keefe has earned a doctorate degree in pharmacy from the University of Rhode Island (URI). Commencement exercises were held May 23 on the quadrangle of the North Kingston campus. Maura, daughter of Bob and Kathie O'Keefe, graduated from Saint Peter Marian High School in 2004. While attending URI, Maura was a starter for the URI Women's Rugby team. For the past four years Maura has been co-captain of the team, a team that won the Division III National Championship in 2007. Maura has recently returned from a humanitarian trip to Honduras, serving in the medical brigade as a pharmacy representative from the University of Rhode Island. Maura has accepted a position with Walgreens Pharmacy.

Sophomore Tove Freeman represented Quabbin this past Saturday at the New England Championship track meet. Freeman placed fifth in the 400-meter dash against 26 other athletes from the Northeast. She was also the top finisher from Massachusetts in the event. Freeman qualified to run at this meet by placing well in a series of meets held over the past few weeks. Her time of 57.68 was

a personal best and beat the school record, previously held by herself, by 0.7 seconds. In the week leading up to the competition, Freeman was accompanied at practice by graduating senior and team captain Lisa Trimby, who volunteered to join Freeman in her workouts in preparation for the meet. Freeman also holds the school records in both the 100 and 200-meter dash and is a talented soccer player in the fall.

25 years ago (June 15, 1995)

Herman Spinney of Oakham returned recently from a trip to Porto Vello, Brazil where he worked with a group to help a mission church. The group put up a fence and a wall around the church property, painted the wall, and installed a volleyball court for the children. He left on May 16 and returned on May 31. He had time for a few side trips including a hike through part of the rainforest, a visit to a zoo, a ferry ride on a river, and a train ride that was pulled by an old, wood-fueled steam engine which used to haul rubber.

Loretta and Theodore Lylis from Babson Park, Fla., former residents of Barre, spent this past weekend at the home of Phyllis and Lyle Anderson of School Street. They attended the graduation exercises of Quabbin Regional High School to see their granddaughter, Erin Lylis, receive her diploma. Mr. Lylis was superintendent of schools in Barre from 1960-1966.

Barre Assembly No. 114, International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, held an installation officers on May 28 at the Masonic Hall, Pleasant Street. Karrie Modzeleski, PWA, of Petersham, was installed as the new Worthy Advisor by Laura G. Mucha, PWA, of Oakham, installing officer. Other members of the installing suite were Marya-Lyn Cromwell, PWA of Orange Assembly 101, installing recorder; Kassie Modzeleski, PWA of Barre Assembly, installing chaplain; Marcy Taylor, PWA of Barre Assembly, installing marshal;

See PAST PAGES, page 5

Guest column

Adventures of Gertrude the Cat

By Ruth Robinson

Dear folks,

I have been a very lazy cat this week. The warm weather and sunshine are wonderful, but I am not peppy like I usually am. Missy took the newspapers to the dump and emptied all the wastebaskets that were full and the cardboard in the box by the refrigerator. So I can't mess with those.

What am I going to do for fun? I'll start by running over the organ pedals to make a noise, but that doesn't bother Missy. She just laughs at me. I'd like to go down cellar where it is cooler, but the door is closed.

Darn, wait a minute, I hear voices. Wow, it is Missy's friend and she has Timothy with her. Hooray, she tells Missy that she has to go to Worcester to give blood for a friend and asks if Timothy can stay a few hours. Missy agrees, but warns the two of us that she wants no problems while his mistress is gone as she has to finish a project for a friend.

Problems, Timothy and me! After a warm show of affection for each other, I took Timothy right into the computer room to show him all my new trinkets I have added since he was here last. I knew that juice box I put under the bed last week would come in handy. Timothy and I batted that around the spare room for awhile.

Then Timothy started to jump up on the bed, but I yelled loudly at him in cat language because Missy has her completed projects for the church fair lined up there. It's off limits to me. So we were good the rest of the day. Missy couldn't believe it.

Love,
Gertrude



The late spring border is ripe with the color blue

By high summer there are very few perennial flowers blooming in shades of blue. We best enjoy them now, while we can. Blue flowers abound in the late spring border! You could easily design a monochromatic scheme using just cool tones. Here are my selections: For the back of the border, try Amsonia tabernaemontana. This native plant is topped with clusters of pale blue flowers, each one opening to form a tiny star, hence its common name, blue star. Growing to around three feet tall and not quite as wide, Amsonia almost qualifies for "specimen" status, although it is not as showy as other specimens like peony or dictamnus. Only one plant is necessary per grouping in full sun or part shade. In my garden, it self-sows, but not usually enough to make itself a nuisance. Another plant best suited for the back row of the perennial garden is Baptisia australis or false indigo. Gray-green foliage is pretty in its own right, until you see the beautiful deep blue-purple pea-like flower spikes emerge in mid-June. Easily four feet tall and three feet wide, Baptisia is a nice specimen perennial;

See GARDEN, page 10

Turley Publications
Letters to the Editor
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Letters to the editor should be 350 words or less in length. No unsigned or anonymous opinions will be published. We require letter writers to include his or her town of residence and home telephone number. We must authenticate authorship prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions deemed to be libelous or contain unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks, defamation of character and offensive language. All unknown or alleged facts and quotations offered by the author need to cite credible, unbiased sources. Send letters to: Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005 or via email to edowner@turley.com. The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

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My only up-close friends during pandemic

By Carole Gariepy

When Gerry and I moved to our small retirement home 25 years ago, our neighbor Rick welcomed us to gather eggs from his chicken coop. That was a very appreciated invitation, and I went to the chicken coop about once a week to gather the eggs I needed. Now, since the virus required us to be quarantined, I have discovered what interesting and intelligent characters chickens are.

With no friends to visit, no church meetings being held, no services to attend, no historical society programs to go to, no museums to visit, no trips to see children or grandchildren, no one to invite for supper or to visit at their homes for supper, and no doctor appointments, who could I visit? Solution, I made new friends, chickens. Because life slowed down, instead of once a week, I started collecting eggs as I used them, one or two at a time, and I didn't just pick them up and leave, I started spending more time there and observed that each chicken, like people, had its own individual personality.

I started to enjoy the little creatures so much, I decided to visit them every day, not to get eggs but just to visit and I brought them little treats like apple peelings and the outside leaves on lettuce and cabbage. At first I tossed the snacks on the floor and then I started offering them from my hand. A black and white one I call Zebra reached up with her beak and snatched them right away. The others were a bit reluctant, but observed her and one by one they learned I was a safe feeder and reached for their snacks too. Among the brood of about a dozen



Carole Gariepy visits with her neighbors' chickens and brings them treats. Turley Publications Submitted Photo

chickens is one rooster and it was a victorious day for me when he too reached for his tidbit. He had previously been grabbing bits from his chicken harem.

Rooster is quite a mellow fellow, but for some reason he plucks out feathers from the back of the chickens in his harem when he does his "thing" and he does service all of them because they all have some of their beautiful tail feathers missing. One of his girls lets him know what she thinks about his plucking actions, she must have a vengeful spirit because she regularly pecks at his hind end and he doesn't like it. I think she's trying to reform him by letting him know that it

hurts to have tail feathers pulled out. If I could give her advice I would tell her it's not easy to change a man.

I always visit after lunch and I think they have a sense of time because as I start up the hill toward the coop, they spot me from their pen and start dashing inside. By the time I get to the door, they are so tightly clustered there that I have to open it carefully and can hardly squeeze in without stepping on them. On one particular day, after they had become well adjusted to taking food from my hand, they backed away when I extended it, seeming a bit scared. I was puzzled. What was wrong? Then I realized that I was wearing green

gloves, never before had I fed them with gloves on. I took them off and they happily returned to be fed. Are chickens smart? Are they observant? Their intelligence went up another notch that day.

I have two favorites, self-confident Zebra and Jackie who reminds me of a jumping jack because she will jump to get a bite. There's only one chicken, who makes me feel a little sad. I think there are some chickens, like people, who have special needs. She never follows the others into the chicken coop for food and when you toss some grass into the outside pen, the others get it before she realizes it's there. And when night comes and all the chickens go back into the coop to roost, she doesn't follow.

The chickens go inside when Rick goes down in the evening to close the little door from the pen to the coop so they will be safe from nighttime predators; they know it's time to go in, all of them except the special-needs girl. How does he corral her in? He sends out Mr. Rooster to do it. The man of the coop is in charge and he takes care of his household.

Gerry smiles when I tell him every day after lunch, "I'm going to visit my friends." I'm sure he thinks I'm a little crazy, but during this pandemic, we all are glad if our loved ones can find an activity to keep them happy. And, for me, I've learned a lot and had fun. Many senior friends have only one or two people they can be close to during this quarantine. Besides Gerry, I have twelve others and like all animal friends, they are always happy to see me.

Summer Send Off 2020



Turley Publications courtesy photos

North Brookfield Elementary School teacher Sherry Peterson greeted students and families with summer reading books and summer fun supplies.



NBES second-grader Madeline Omastas enjoyed her surprises from teachers last Wednesday.



Teachers and staff stood by with summer books and other supplies as families drove up to the school and the items were placed in their cars.

BARRE, continued from page 1

health guidelines in place. He said as far as holding summer concerts, a lot depends on what happens as the state reopens. He said some states as they reopened saw spikes in COVID-19 cases. He said the question to ask was "the summer concert critical to the operation of the town." He said large group gatherings would be part of a later phase.

Finance committee

Finance committee chair, Claire Adomaitis, discussed the FY 21 budget with selectmen. She said the committee met with the Rutland Regional Emergency Communications Center (RRECC) director and school officials to discuss their budget. Regional dispatch was under last year's budget due to grants and the addition of a fifth town, Warren. She said the

school would not state revenue amounts until August. She said the finance committee recommended two capital plans items, a new ambulance and cruiser. She said some towns were putting to fund an ambulance through CARES Act money.

She said the finance committee recommended postponing the town meeting until after June 30. She said it would give the committee more time to get their revenue numbers from the state.

CARES Act application

The board voted to include the \$285,00 cost of a new ambulance in its CARES Act application. Selectman O'Sullivan said if the town put the ambulance in its application and if it were denied, the money would still be available for next year. Barre was eligible for \$493,000. Selectmen authorized chair Matthew Urban to sign the application.

Reorganization of board

Selectman chair said the town election would not be held until June 23 and since Greg O'Sullivan was the only selectman candidate on the ballot, he nominated him for chair. Selectman Dylan Clark concurred. The board voted Matt Urban, vice-chair and Dylan Clark, clerk.

Building commissioner

Selectmen unanimously appointed William Cantell regional building commissioners. He would start June 8. His annual salary would be \$63,705.

Other business

Selectmen approved paying out the 50 hours of vacation due the interim town administrator. Her contract ends June 30. She said in a letter that she expected to take the vacation time, but then the pandemic hit and she was unable to take the time. Urban said, "I appreciate what she has done for us."

FINANCE COMMITTEE, continued from page 1

risk assessment. The interim town administrator said all auditors were putting this in their reports. She said there were grants available for a fraud risk assessment by an outside consultant. Once the finance committee reviews the auditor, they will have it put on the selectmen's meeting agenda.

Town clerk budget

The finance committee met with town clerk Ellen Glidden to go over her budget. Glidden said she level funded her budget with the exception of the election account due to a state election this year. The amount for elections was \$49,210. Finance committee member Brian Inman asked if any of the election expenses could be put under COVID-19 expense. She said she hoped CARES Act funds would be available. She did

not know what extra costs due to COVID-19 would be for the September and November elections. She said since COVID-19, her office has been out straight. She said the Secretary of State talked about mailing November ballots to every voter in the state.

Glidden said she expected more voter participation for the upcoming town election Tuesday, June 23. She said she received back lots of ballots for the town election in the mail.

Other business

Interim town administrator Munroe said selectman Gregory O'Sullivan wanted her to tell the finance committee that his thoughts were the revenue predictions were not as bad and he thought they should be higher.

School budget

The finance committee voted to recommend a level funded school budget to selectmen. Mark Staiti abstained; the others voted yes.

ATM

The interim town administrator said she spoke to Clare Barnes of facilities about holding the annual town meeting outside at the Quabbin Regional High School. Ellen Glidden said cars would enter the horse show driveway at the front of the school, check in, receive an election packet and park in the driveway using two lanes. The third lane would be kept open. Voters would either sit on the front lawn or vote from their car. She was looking to borrow paddles with yes on one side, no on the other or color-coded from a town that uses them for Barre's ATM. The moderator would have a microphone and a moderator appointed designee would have a portable microphone for the audience to use. She also planned to start the meeting at 6 p.m. and have people come early around 5 p.m. to allow for the check in process. In case of rain, the meeting would be postponed to July 1.

HARDWICK ELECTION, continued from page 1

cations are available online at www.townofhardwick.com and on the bulletin board at each of the three post offices in Hardwick. Please fill out the application, sign it and mail it to the Town Clerk or drop it in the drop box at the

Municipal Office Building. Please allow for ample time for the mailing of the absentee ballot application/ballot and for the ballot to be returned to the Town Clerk no later than the close of the polls on June 16, in order for the ballot to be counted. The polls will be open on Election Day for those voters who wish to cast their ballots in person. The

town will follow the guidelines set for social distancing, requiring masks being worn by voters as well as poll workers.

Special Town Meeting

A Special Town Meeting was scheduled for June 2, at 6 p.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School. Some of the items to be addressed on the warrant include an article for the reconstruction

of Routes 32 and 32A, an article for overdrawn accounts from fiscal 2019, an article for unprovided for accounts in fiscal 2020, and an article to raise and appropriate, borrow or transfer from available funds a sum of money to pay for the costs to plan, design, permit and construct improvements and upgrades to the Gilbertville Water Pollution

Control Facility, the Wheelwright Water Pollution Control Facility and the Route 32A sewer line extension upgrade from Eagle Hill School to the Gilbertville Water Pollution Collection System. The town will follow the guidelines set for social distancing as well as requiring masks being worn by town officials and voters. A voter registration ses-

sion will be held on Thursday, June 4, at the Municipal Building, 307 Main St., from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. to register voters who wish to vote at the Special Town Meeting.

The Selectmen have also set the date for the Annual Town Meeting to be Wednesday, June 24, at 6 p.m. at the Hardwick Elementary School.

Happy Father's Day

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Revolution returns to training with MLS teams

FOXBOROUGH – Major League Soccer today lifted the team training moratorium implemented on March 12 and MLS clubs may now submit individual club plans to return to first team training. Individual club plans must be reviewed and approved by the club's medical staff and local infectious disease expert prior to submission to MLS for review. Full team training will be mandatory for all players as teams take the next step toward a return to match play. In order to maintain a safe environment for all players and staff, individual club plans must remain in compliance with local health and government policies and adhere to detailed health and safety protocols that were created in consultation with medical and infectious disease experts, including: Testing:

Players must complete a physical examination, and all players and staff must complete two Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) tests 24 hours apart, 72 hours prior to the start of training, and undergo one baseline antibody (serology) test.

Players will be cleared to train by their medical staff only after they have successfully completed their interim physical, completed two negative PCR tests and the serology test.

Players, coaches and select staff must complete PCR tests every other day and only those with negative results will be allowed to attend training.

Serology testing will be performed once every three months.

Individual club test providers must be authorized by the FDA and Health Canada. Turnaround time for tests must be no more than 24 hours.

If a player or staff member tests positive, the individual will be isolated. The isolated individual will be tested again at least 24 hours later to ensure the result was not a false positive. All close contacts will be tested immediately. Contact tracing will be performed at the direction of the club's COVID-19 task force and local authorities.

A player or staff member that tests positive for COVID-19 may return to training only when cleared by the club's Chief Medical Officer in consultation with the

See MLS, page 8

Senior athletes being featured

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

The Turley Publications sports department is looking to honor the senior athletes who have had their spring seasons cancelled by the coronavirus pandemic.

The senior features have already started rolling out, but if you have not seen your senior featured, we encouraged you to send photos and info on your son or daughter, and encourage you to contact their coach to speak with us.

We have reached out to spring coaches and athletic directors, but are still trying to collect info on every team that would have been involved in this spring's season.

We hope to also publish action photos of seniors from previous seasons, though parents and coaches are encouraged to send photos of seniors they would like to see published in the upcoming editions of the paper.

All submissions can be made to Sports Editor Gregory A. Scibelli at sports@turley.com. In the subject line, please identify the school and sport you are writing in about. Senior athletes are also encouraged to write in to talk about the season that wasn't.

Spec Pond League will have no fans to start season



File photos

The Spec Pond Summer Basketball League is planning to have basketball this summer once Phase 3 of the re-opening plan begins in Massachusetts.

Other rules will be implemented as necessary for the outdoor basketball league

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

WILBRAHAM – One of first youth sports the area could see will be based out of Spec Pond in Wilbraham sometime next month.

Only this summer, it could look a lot different for a while.

For several years, the Spec Pond Summer Basketball has been both a nightly and a weekend gathering place for many young basketball players and their families, which utilize the surrounding amenities during games.

ties during games.

Bryan Litz, the director of Wilbraham Parks and Recreation, organizes the league each year. He welcomes many teams from out of town, including Agawam, Southwick, Springfield, Ludlow, Belchertown, Ware, Chicopee, Palmer, and even as far as Sturbridge.

There are divisions ranging from third and fourth graders all the way up to the high school level. There are both boys and girls teams and the typical night has games being played every hour from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on the two outdoor courts. Area schools are utilized in the event games must be made up due to rain.

The season carries on through

July and early August and then playoffs happen in mid-August with the championships concluding right before the start of youth football season.

Litz confirmed the league is planning to start if and when the state enters Phase 3, which is currently on track to happen on June 30.

While Phase 3 lists "limited crowds" as part of the ability to resume athletic contests at the youth level, Litz has said the main parameter of starting the season will be that no fans will be allowed.

"There will be a maximum of three coaches on the bench and at games," said Litz. "But once we see what guidance the state gives, then we will also implement other rules."



The Spec Pond league will be the first basketball that takes place in area since high school basketball was shutdown just shy of the state finals. In youth basketball, the Szlats Memorial Tournament in Chicopee was just beginning when the state banned all recreational activities. As the state continues its re-opening process, it is possible the Spec Pond League will be able to ease some restrictions in Phase 4, if that phase is implemented sometime in July. Each phase of the governor's plans is supposed to last three weeks if there are no setbacks. There is a registration packet now available online for the league. To access it, go to <https://www.leaguelineup.com/welcome.asp?url=specpond>.

Commemorative coins on sale now to fund education programs

SPRINGFIELD — Located in the Birth City of Basketball, Springfield, Mass., the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame promotes and preserves the game of basketball at every level. Since the Basketball Hall of Fame opened its doors in 1959, it has operated as a not for profit organization relying on the generosity of others to preserve the legacy of the game. On Thursday, June 4, basketball fans will have the opportunity to own a piece of basketball history

and support the Hall of Fame with the purchase of a newly launched commemorative coin.

This milestone concludes a multi-year effort by Congressman Richard Neal, Congressman Andy Barr, and Senators Elizabeth Warren and the late John McCain, along with countless Hall of Fame members, to make this coin a reality.

"This endeavor has been years in the making and we couldn't be more excited to be launching a commemorative coin with the U.S. Mint this week," said John Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. "These coins are a unique opportunity for fans to own a piece of basketball history while supporting the Hall and the game itself, as the funds generated will allow us to bolster our endowment, educational programs and ever-growing portfolio of events."

To commemorate this historic day, the Hall of Fame offered a

limited quantity of coins for sale to the general public on June 4 from noon to 2 p.m. Coins will be available on a first-come-first-served basis and orders will be limited to one coin type/finish per person, while supplies last. Customers should enter the South Side of the property (Hilton Garden Entrance) where Hall of Fame staff will provide instructions. State of Massachusetts directives regarding Covid-19 protocols will be followed.

Mintage for this commemorative coin program is limited to 50,000 \$5 gold coins, 400,000 silver dollar coins, and 750,000 half dollar coins. Coin prices include surcharges of \$35 for each gold coin, \$10 for each silver coin, and \$5 for each half-dollar coin, which are authorized to be paid to the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to fund an endowment that will enable increased operations and educational programming.

Valley Wheel Baseball aiming for summer baseball

REGION – The Valley Wheel Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for the upcoming 2020 season. The league is seeking players ages 28 and up. Players turning 28 this year are eligible. However, only players 30 and older can pitch. The league plays 15 regular season games with games

being held mostly on Sundays with a couple of weekday games thrown in the mix as well as a special Mother's Day Saturday game in early May. However, due to the current circumstances, the league schedule has been pushed back. The league still plans to play its season once bans on gatherings are

lifted. The league is hoping for late June, early July start to the season, dependent on the terms of the governor's re-open plan. The league is built on comradery, fair play, and having a good time with friends. If interested in trying out, go to www.valley-wheelbaseball.com.

The rules of the league and

new player forms can be found on the site. For further information, you can contact the league's commissioner, Jim Nason at wheel12@comcast.net or call him at (413) 433-4308. Tryouts will be take place as soon as conditions are allowed, but new player applications are still being accepted.

2020 Bay State Summer Games events cancelled through July

REGION – All Bay State Games events originally scheduled for May 30 through July 26 will be cancelled in consideration for the health and well-being of all athletes, officials, coaches, medical staff, and volunteers. The challenges and uncertainty that COVID-19 has presented prevent the organization from appropriately planning, organizing, and producing events in 30 different sports this year.

This summer, Bay State

Games was set to celebrate its 39th annual Summer Games. Due to multiple venue cancellations, the inability to conduct team sport tryouts in June, decisions by sport governing bodies to suspend competitions, medical committee concerns, as well as other factors, the Summer Games will not be able to proceed as scheduled.

"We are committed to the health and well-being of our constituents. It is of the utmost

importance to keep everyone safe during these unprecedented times," says Executive Director, Kevin Cummings. "While this was a very difficult decision, we believe it is appropriate given the unprecedented impact this pandemic has had on everyone, as well as our ability to produce events this year."

Bay State Games remains hopeful that some events may proceed in the fall if and when it is safe to do so. Sport pages on

the Bay State Games website will be updated with information as it becomes available. All athletes who have registered for the 2020 Summer Games will be refunded for their registration fee. If the sport you wish to compete in can be held in the fall of 2020, it will require a new registration.

For more information, please visit www.baystategames.org. Please direct all questions and inquiries to info@baystategames.org.

Kolodzieys ready to start PVSSL in Phase 3

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

LUDLOW – As the picture becomes clearer, it looks like we will have summer soccer in the Pioneer Valley for high school students.

High school students have been away from one another since March 16, which essentially all education was shut down throughout the Commonwealth. Eventually, all recreation and activity was shut down as well.

Last Saturday, Gov. Charlie Baker announced the provisions of Phase 2 of the re-opening plan as Massachusetts continues to stay on a good course with lowering numbers of coronavirus cases, deaths, and hospitalizations.

With the start of Phase 2, the "cautious" step, the Pioneer Valley Summer Soccer League is making plans for its return to action.

Just a few weeks ago, the coordinators of the league, Chris and Diana Kolodziej, were non-committal about whether or not there would be a season due to the uncertainty surrounding the re-opening and whether it would have to be delayed or scaled back.

However, they were always hopefully of having a season, even with a delayed start.

Normally, the season would start next week, but games will start under Phase 3, called Vigilant. Teams, in groups 10 and under, can start practicing, however, and the Kolodzieys are taking registrations and starting to organize a schedule that would start sometime shortly after June 30.

So far, the governor's plan has gone according to the three-week schedule projects for it, which puts Phase 3 on target for that date.

The summer soccer season would likely last at least four weeks through to the end of July,

See SUMMER SOCCER, page 8

Quabbin Valley League hoping for mid-July start

REGION – The Quabbin Valley Over-30 Baseball League is seeking new players for 2020 season. The league has six teams, several with open roster spots. Last year, the league voted to allow players age 28 and 29 to be able to join the league, though players under 30 are not eligible to pitch. The cost of the league this season is \$192. For returning and new players, sign-ups have been placed on hold until a determination has been made on the season going forward. Sign-ups should resume soon. Based on the governor's re-open plan, the league is aiming for a start to the season in mid-July with a modified schedule. Games are nine innings and metal (BBCOR -3) or wood bats are allowed. Fields locations are throughout Western Mass. For more information on the league, or if you are interested in registering, go to <https://www.quabbinvalley-baseball.org/>.

The site states there will be a “condensed” season, but it unclear how many regular games will be played.

Church News

Local pastor offers sermon

Note: The Barre Gazette staff reached out to area churches if they would provide sermons during the Coronavirus pandemic. Any pastor, priest or rabbi wishing to participate may email either barrenews@turley.com or edowner@turley.com.

In the Name of Jesus, Stop

2020 has proven a turbulent year. In recent months, we have had to deal with the Coronavirus and its immense impact upon every facet of life and living. In fact, we are still in the midst of this circumstance. In more recent days, however, our nation has been shaken by the slaying of George Floyd and the subsequent violence in our streets. Like a great many of you, this has forced to me to contend with an array of emotions.

I confess to feeling a sense of indignation. The needless killing of George Floyd angers me, as I watch the nearly nine-minute-long taking of a human life. Correspondingly, I feel anger as I watch the footage of riots and looting, as innocent people are attacked, and businesses are ransacked. I despise how sinister groups have seemingly hijacked peaceful protests.

I also admit to feeling a sense of frustration. I feel frustrated over the question, “What might have been?” The killing of George Floyd should have been a watershed moment, i.e., a moment when everyone came together in solidarity and worked to make essential changes to our system. Instead, our collective attention has shifted away from this meaningful discussion to the fruitless acts of lawlessness affecting the urban centers of this great nation. I can only pray the conversation shifts back.

Ultimately, I admit to feeling powerless. I feel powerless as a white man to understand the plight of people of color. Similarly, I feel powerless to communicate my heart to them, as any discourse these days is comparable to navigating a minefield. I feel impotent to effect change. I ask myself, “How can I help to bring about change in this broken world? I am only one man with a small voice in an ocean of people.” Perhaps you can relate to these sentiments.

In those moments when I feel powerless, I remind myself of a story I once read. It is the story of a man named Telemachus and it is my privilege to share it with you in this publication. Please consider the following:

Telemachus lived around A.D. 400. As is the case with all godly men and women, Telemachus was not born a saint. Tradition holds that he was unruly in his youth, caught up in the pleasures of the age. After traveling throughout Asia Minor (i.e., modern-day Turkey), Telemachus found himself absorbed in a world of indulgence. It was after many years of aimless living seeking carnal pleasures that he converted to Christianity. Following his conversion, he entered a monastery and became a monk.

It is said that in the year A.D. 402, the young monk felt called to leave the monastery to spread the message of Christ to the pagan world. He felt called of God to immediately head for Rome, the hub of the ancient world. He was not sure what he would find there. He was not sure why the Lord had called him to travel with such immediacy. However, he obeyed the mandate of God and set forth on his journey.

Upon arriving in Rome, he found himself swept up in a large crowd. The crowd was immense and excited! The passion of the crowd being contagious, Telemachus found himself giddy with the excitement of those around him. Though he did not know why the crowd was so excited or where they were headed, he set his mind on following the

crowd. Something significant was set to take place and he did not want to miss out!

Within moments, he found himself deep in the seating area of the Roman Coliseum. Asking those around him, he learned that the Romans had just defeated the Goths and the emperor commanded a circus to be held for the celebrating crowd. As he took his seat, he noticed the emperor was situated in his place of honor. He also noted the gladiators lining up below the seat of the emperor. Together, they stood and yelled out the traditional greeting of the gladiators to their emperors: “We who are about to die, salute you.”

The gladiators pulled out their weapons and the bloodbath began mere yards from Telemachus. Seeing this for the first time, the grotesque nature of the sport appalled him. Even worse was the adulation of the crowd; the spectators were in ecstasy over the gruesome spectacle.

Telemachus was sickened and shocked. In that instant, he realized that it must stop. From his seat, he yelled out to the warriors: “In the Name of Jesus, stop.” No one heard. His voice was but one in the midst of many thousands.

Without thinking, he jumped over the wall and into the arena. The gladiators were surprised by the unexpected guest. They momentarily stopped their fighting and stared at the monk.

Again, he yelled, “In the Name of Jesus, stop.” For a moment, they fell silent.

However, the silence soon turned to chuckles and outright laughter. One of the gladiators, with a sick enjoyment, swung at Telemachus with his sword, barely missing him. With that, the other gladiators drew their swords. They began to chase the man across the field to the laughter of the crowd. Most who witnessed the spectacle believed he was there for some comic relief.

That was, until they heard his continual yelling: “In the Name of Jesus, stop. For the love of Christ, stop.” He ran, jumped, dodged and ducked, yet with each passing moment his words grew clearer and louder: “In the Name of Jesus, stop. In the Name of Jesus, stop.” “IN THE NAME OF JESUS, STOP”

Eventually the gladiators surged. When the dust cleared, there laid Telemachus on the ground with a sword in the center of his chest. The crowd fell silent. It is said in that moment his words still echoed in the Coliseum: “In the Name of Christ, stop.”

After what seemed like an eternity, one man got up from his seat and left in silence. Another followed, then another, then another... Until everyone got up from their seat and left in both silence and disbelief.

The site of the dead monk in the center of the arena, along with the reaction of the crowd, also led the emperor and his guests to silently stand, turn and leave the Coliseum. The gladiators put their swords down and left as well. All that remained in the giant Coliseum was the scrawny and lifeless body of a young monk.

History claims that this was the last gladiatorial game at the Coliseum. The memory of that man changed the hearts and minds of the Roman people. Within the hour, the emperor issued an edict that forbade any future games of war within the Empire.

There was no more killing in the Coliseum. There were no more gladiator matches in Rome.

All because one man stood up and cried, “In the Name of Jesus, stop.”

This story illustrates something that we can easily forget. Namely, the reality that one person can change the world. You see, you and I may not be as powerless as we believe.

We never know how the Lord might use our words, deeds, and example to produce change in this fallen world. I love the following quote (often attributed to Margaret Meade): “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world: indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

We need a generation of individuals who will rise up in the spirit of Telemachus to say, “In the Name of Jesus, stop.”

We need men, women and youth who will say “STOP” to racism.

Our nation has a long history of fractured race relations and prejudice. This needs to stop. It needs to cease at the national level. Let us pray for our leaders, that they might have heavenly wisdom to root out any elements of systemic racism. As the apostle Paul penned (1 Tim. 2:1–4, NIV): “I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. This is good, and pleases God our Savior, who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” Moreover, it needs to cease at the personal level. If you harbor hatred in your heart toward a member of another race, I call you to repentance. Remember:

1 John 4:20

Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen.

We also need people who will say “STOP” to the violence.

There is no place for the anarchy we are witnessing. Many well-meaning people are trying to justify the violence as of late. There is simply no justification—period. This lawlessness does nothing to bring about racial reconciliation. It does nothing to start or advance a national conversation. It does nothing to win hearts and minds to a noble cause. It only serves to dishonor the Lord, one another, and the legacy of George Floyd. Consider the words of his own brother: “My brother wasn’t about that [violence]. My brother was about peace. You’ll hear a lot of people say he was a gentle giant.”

If we are going to condemn senseless violence in the case of George Floyd, we must be consistent and condemn it across the board. As Martin Luther King Jr. shared, “Returning violence for violence multiplies violence, adding deeper darkness to a night already devoid of stars. Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

As I conclude, let us remember that there is truly only one race and it is the human race. And despite all that separates us we have this in common: we share the same need for the same Savior. We have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God (Rom. 3:23). We all deserve divine penalty for what we have done (Rom. 6:23). Yet Christ died for us so that we might inherit life eternal and life to the full (Rom. 5:8; John 3:16; 10:10). Have you placed your faith in Him and Him alone as Savior and Lord (Rom. 10:9–11)? If not, why not today.

Thank you for taking the time to read these remarks. Should you desire, please feel free to check us out online at www.NewLifeBarre.org or engage in any of our services. In the meantime, be well, stay safe, and God bless you all.

Pastor James Foley

*New Life Assembly of God
South Barre*

St. Mary’s Church holding Polish food sale July 11

WARE – St. Mary’s Church in Ware will be holding a Polish Food Sale on Saturday, July 11. Pierogi (\$10 per dozen), golombki (3 for \$10) and kapusta (\$6 per quart) will be available for purchase. There will be curbside pick-up only. People will be designated a pick up time when placing their order. Payment should be

exact amount, either check made out to St. Mary’s Church or cash and placed in an envelope with name, phone number and payment amount. People may call Sylvia at 413-436-9268 or Diane at 413-967-5207 to pre-order. All orders must be received by Sunday, July 5. No orders will be taken after July 5, no exceptions.

Community Foundation awards grant to local hospitals

FITCHBURG — The Community Foundation of North Central Massachusetts announced \$31,200 in grant funds to Heywood Hospital in Gardner and UMass Memorial - HealthAlliance-Clinton. The money will allow the hospitals to purchase respirators for emergency department staff.

Joan Doyle, Heywood Hospital Emergency Department Director, expressed her gratitude to the Community Foundation for the grant funds to purchase respirators for her staff on the front lines. She stressed the importance of the respirators and that “the health and safety of our community starts with protecting the

health and safety of our health care workforce. Reusable respirators offer a safe, durable solution to ensure that we are ready to respond to public health emergencies without fear of shortages as a result of unexpected supply chain interruptions.”

The Community Foundation has raised \$360,000 for its COVID19 Response Fund and distributed \$155,000 to date. This is in addition to the \$520,000 distributed by the Community Foundation through the Massachusetts COVID-19 Relief Fund.

To contribute to the COVID19 Response Fund, people may visit www.cfnm.org.

Obituaries

DEATH NOTICES

Roberts, Aldea D. (Hisoire)
Died May 29, 2020
Private Funeral Mass was held
St. James Church

Spinney, Lewis A.
Died June 2, 2020
Memorial service
June 19, 2020
Forest Lawn Cemetery

Stevens, Audrey (Carter)
Died June 3, 2020
Celebration of life at a later date
Pillsbury Funeral Home

Aldea D. (Hisoire) Roberts, 98

BARRE – Aldea D. (Hisoire) Roberts, 98, passed away peacefully in Holden Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care Facility in Holden, Friday, May 29, 2020 after struggling with Dementia/Alzheimer’s disease for years and most recently, Covid19.

Aldea was the wife of the late George R. Roberts who died in 1990. Together they ran the first taxi service and ambulance service in Barre. They also provided school bus transportation for several years to the town before purchasing the rights to operate a passenger service from Greenfield to Worcester and charter service covering the New England states, New York, Pennsylvania and part of Canada from the former Englander Coach Company and operated under the name of the Barre Bus Company for many years before retiring. Among Aldea’s favorite hobbies were cooking, crocheting and hooking rugs. She was a skilled seamstress, who during WWII, worked in Worcester as a Mother’s Helper during the day and at night for the war effort sewing for the armed forces. Aldea also loved to paint and painted many pictures of the town and surrounding area.

She was a communicant of St. Joseph’s Church in Barre and one of



the first members of the Quaboag-New Braintree AARP group.

Aldea was born in Farnumsville (Grafton) on May 12, 1922 to the late Alexander and Eva (Cardin) Hisoire. She leaves her daughters, Annette Roberts of Sturbridge, Elizabeth A. Peckham and her husband David of Auburn and Martha A. Higgins and her husband James of Barre. Her granddaughters, Renee E. Peckham of Auburn and Emily A. (Peckham) Valencia, her husband Cristian, their children (Aldea’s great grandchildren) Cristian, Camila and Xavier of Ansonia, CT.

Aldea was predeceased by her sisters, Cecilia Auger and Billie Hisoire both of North Grafton and Virginia Siska of Sutton. She leaves two remaining sisters, Theresa (Kit) Lebel of Seal Beach, CA and Phyllis (Brown) Simpson of South Grafton along with many nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

A private funeral mass for Aldea was held in St. James Church, 89 Main St., South Grafton. Burial followed in Fairview Cemetery. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

Lewis A. “Lou” Spinney, 89

FULLERTON, CALIF. – Surrounded by his family, Lewis Arthur “Lou” Spinney, 89, of Fullerton, California, left this earth to live in heaven on June 2, 2020. In a fall at his home in March, he suffered a broken leg, after which his health deteriorated.

Lou was born Aug. 2, 1930, in Barre, Massachusetts, the youngest of six children born to Burpee A. “Bert” and Leona (Steele) Spinney. Lewis attended Barre High School where he played on the baseball team, graduating in 1948. He regularly attended reunions of his graduating class, including the 70th anniversary in the summer of 2018.

In 1948 Lou moved to California. After 34 years with Northrop Aircraft Corporation, he retired in 1991, as a manager in Production Control.

Lou married Norma Kyes on Oct. 22,



1949. In October of 2019, they celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary with a gathering of family and friends. The couple enjoyed square dancing and playing cards with friends. Lou was active at Grace Bible Church in Fullerton and was a member of the Elks Lodge. Children’s hospitals and animal shelter organizations were his favorite charities. He was well known for having lunch at In-and-Out Burger.

Lou is survived by his wife, Norma of Fullerton, sons Wayne and Darry and grandson, Christopher. A son, Neal Spinney, died in 1970. He was predeceased by his parents and five siblings, Clyde, Marjorie, Lloyd, Ella and LeRoy.

A memorial service will be held at the graveside at Forest Lawn Cemetery in Cypress on June 19, 2020, at 2:30 p.m.

Audrey (Carter) Stevens, 86

BARRE – Audrey (Carter) Stevens, 86, of Barre, left her beloved farm and hometown on June 3, 2020. Born April 13, 1934, she was predeceased by her father, Donald Carter and her mother, Thelma Littlefield Carter.

Born Audrey Carter, she worked with her father on their farm on Allen Hill, Old Stage Road for many years before marrying her husband, Daniel Stevens. The Carter and Stevens Farm was born. Audrey worked the farm her entire life alongside her family including her son and his family. She raised many animals over the course of her life and will be remembered for her love, kindness and care of her dogs, chickens, cows, pet woodchucks, chipmunks, monkey and crow and her favorite, Morgan horses. She loved and valued her farm.

Audrey led a full life with many talents and interests including sewing, gardening, quilting, hunting, skiing, running, canoe racing, travel, local history and horsemanship. She served her community throughout the course of her life by being a 4H and Girl Scout leader for many years. She was a past member of the Barre Riding and Driving Club and past curator of the museum

in Barre’s town library, where she had such empathy and knowledge of the Native American artifact collection. She was a director and worked at the Barre Historical Society for many years where she enjoyed tending the gardens and the restoration of the Concord Coach.

Audrey completed several courses in the practice of Herbolgoy and over the years acquired great knowledge in the field of homeopathy. One of her proudest accomplishments was working in Emergency Medical Services where she became an EMT in 1981 and served her community for 20 years. She was also on the Board of Directors for the Mount Grace Land Conservation Trust.

Audrey leaves her husband, Daniel; a daughter, Sherry McDonald and her life partner, Jay Gould of Sturbridge; a son, Philip and wife, Erin Stevens of Barre; six grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. Private burial and Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Barre Historical Society, P.O. Box 755, Barre, MA.01005. Arrangements are under the care of Pillsbury Funeral Home, 96 South Barre Road, Barre.

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Barre Gazette OBITUARY POLICY

Turley Publications offers two types of obituaries.

One is a free, brief **Death Notice** listing the name of deceased, date of death and funeral date and place.

The other is a **Paid Obituary**, costing \$100, which allows families to publish extended death notice information of their own choice and may include a photograph. **Death Notices & Paid Obituaries** should be submitted through a funeral home to: obits@turley.com.

Exceptions will be made only when the family provides a death certificate and must be pre-paid.

Listening to an outdoor church service



Turley Publications Photo by Ellenor Downer

People listen to the Oakham Congregational Church’s outdoor service on the Oakham Common Sunday. People brought their own chairs or blankets, wore masks and practiced social distancing. Services are at 10 a.m. and all are welcome. In case of inclement weather, services will be held in the church.

Urgent need for blood donations as hospital demand increases

REGION — The American Red Cross has an urgent need for blood donations to prevent another blood shortage as hospitals resume surgical procedures and patient treatments that were temporarily paused earlier this spring in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Healthy individuals who are feeling well are asked to make an appointment to donate in the weeks and months ahead by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enabling the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device.

In recent weeks, hospital demand for blood products has grown by 30 percent after sharply declining in early April amid this rapidly changing and complex public health crisis. At the same time, blood drives continue to be canceled as many businesses and community organizations remain closed. Donors are needed to make and keep scheduled appointments to help meet the current need.

Thanks to Amazon, all those who come to give June 1-30 will receive a \$5 Amazon.com Gift Card via email.

Retailer bottle and can redemption centers to reopen

BOSTON – As part of the Baker-Polito Administration’s comprehensive reopening plan, the required acceptance of bottle bill containers for redemption will resume in a two-stage process, beginning on June 5. The plan includes protocols and requirements to ensure the safety of employees and the public.

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Attorney General’s Office on March 18, temporarily suspended enforcement of beverage container redemption requirements for retailers across the Commonwealth. MassDEP and the Attorney General’s Office will resume enforcement of beverage container redemption requirements in two phases:

Enforcement of redemption requirements will resume at retailers using reverse vending machines

It’s important to remember that red blood cells must be transfused within 42 days of donation and platelets within just five days. So, they must constantly be replenished. There is no known end date in this fight against coronavirus, and the Red Cross urgently needs the help of donors and blood drive hosts to ensure blood products are readily available for patients.

Each Red Cross blood drive and donation center follows the highest standards of safety and infection control, and additional precautions – including temperature checks, social distancing and face coverings for donors and staff – have been implemented to ensure the health of all those in attendance. Donors are asked to schedule an appointment prior to arriving at the drive and are required to wear a face covering or mask while at the drive, in alignment with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention public guidance.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities now through June 15: Springfield Blood Donation Center, 150 Brookdale Drive, Springfield, June 11 and 15 from 11:45 a.m. to 7 p.m., June 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., and June 13

and 14 from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

Worcester Blood Donation Center, 381 Plantation Street, Worcester –June 11 from 11:15 a.m. to 6:45 p.m. and June 12, 13 and 14 from 8:15 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver’s license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

(RVMs) on June 5.

Enforcement of redemption requirements will resume at retailers accepting containers over-the-counter on June 19.

Bottle redemption services will need to adhere to the protocols set forth in the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development’s Guidance Regarding the Operation of Essential Services, including: customers and employees wear a mask or face-covering, post signage to remind customers to practice social distancing, clearly mark 6-foot spacing in lines on the floor, limit bottle room occupancy and disinfect machines before proceeding to empty them.

Customers are encouraged to check the operating status of redemption locations before bringing empty beverage containers for redemption and should follow store

guidelines related to redemption services and standard safety precautions to help prevent the spread of COVID-19, such as wearing a mask and social distancing.

Customers visiting retailer redemption locations may be limited to redeeming no more than 120 deposit containers at a time. Customers seeking to redeem more than 120 containers are encouraged to utilize a redemption center with the capacity to manage large volumes efficiently and effectively. A list of registered redemption centers can be found here. Customers must also ensure that all beverage containers are free of product, rinsed and not commingled with other materials. Redemption locations may not accept containers with contaminants.

MassDEP’s Bottle Bill Hotline is available at 617-556-1054 for questions and information requests.

Baystate Health seeks plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients

SPRINGFIELD – Actor Tom Hanks has done it. So has his wife Rita Wilson. Several NBA players, too, and now singer Andrea Bocelli.

They have all donated convalescent plasma to help in the fight against COVID-19. Now, people may be able to donate their convalescent plasma locally at Baystate Medical Center.

“Baystate is pleased to announce the initiation of a new aspect to its Blood Donor Center operations joining with hospitals nationwide in seeking plasma donations from recovered COVID-19 patients. This new program initiative, termed ‘Hemotherapy Heroes,’ recognizes the important role these patient donors play in treatment efforts to combat the pandemic. Their plasma may help save the life of someone fighting desperately to recover from this deadly novel coronavirus infection” said Chester Andrzejewski, Ph.D., M.D., medical director of System Blood Banking and Transfusion Medicine Services a Baystate Health.

Over 130 patient donors, who have recovered from their COVID-19 viral illness, have already reached out to Baystate’s Blood Donor Center to donate their convalescent plasma.

Convalescent plasma is the liquid part of blood that is collected from patients, who have recovered from the novel coronavirus

disease, COVID-19, caused by the virus SARS-CoV-2. COVID-19 patients develop antibodies in the blood against the virus. Antibodies are proteins that might help fight the infection. Convalescent plasma is being investigated for the treatment of COVID-19 because there is no approved treatment for the disease and there is information that suggests it might help some patients recover from COVID-19.

People that have had COVID-19 and are fully recovered may be able to help save the lives of other COVID-19 patients by donating their plasma. Their plasma now contains COVID-19 antibodies. These antibodies helped their immune system to defeat the virus when they were sick, which means that their plasma may be able to help others, who are now infected with the disease.

To qualify, donors must meet the following current requirements:

They must be able to meet routine blood donation eligibility requirements.

They must have a prior COVID-19 diagnosis documented by a laboratory test.

They must be fully recovered for at least 28 days.

They must be willing to authorize Baystate Health access to their medical record for the purpose of determining their eligibility for COVID-19 convalescent plasma donation.

Those who meet the requirements and want to donate their plasma can fill out a plasma donation data form at <https://www.baystatehealth.org/services/blood-donor/covid19-plasma> to begin the evaluation process.

If people haven’t had COVID-19 and still want to help, they can consider donating blood. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented challenges to the U.S. blood supply.During the pandemic crisis, Baystate Health has relocated its blood donation operations to 361 Whitney Avenue in Holyoke. The Blood Donor Center is open daily: Monday and Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from noon-8 p.m.; Saturday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Sunday from 8 a.m. to noon. Walk-ins are welcome, but appointments are given priority and can be made by calling 413-794-4600. However, platelet donations at Whitney Avenue are scheduled by appointment only.

Those donating whole blood must be in good health, be at least 17 years of age, and weigh at least 110 pounds.

Per the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), whole blood donors should refrain from blood donations for 14 days if they had any symptoms of COVID-19 or have had a positive diagnostic test (nasal swab test) for COVID-19.

June called ‘Dairy Month’

MARLBOROUGH – Every year June is dubbed “Dairy Month,” during which, consumers and producers alike celebrate the farmers who work tirelessly to provide us with milk and dairy products. An important staple in the American diet, milk is known to be nutrient dense and filled with protein. As such, consumers usually stock up on this item when they know they maybe forced to stay at home for an extended period of time.

“The COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder about how important our food supply chain is,” said Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation President Mark Amato. “Making sure that our stores have milk and other products that consumers desire has been a challenge as plants cannot just repurpose themselves from cheese to fluid milk on a moment’s notice. As such, we have seen stores with no fluid milk and yet, our dairy producers have sometimes been forced to dump milk, which is heartbreaking.”

Prior to COVID-19, there was large demand for cheese and other processed milk products by the

restaurant industry. But as the stay at home orders set in, consumers switched to purchasing more fluid milk at grocery stores, which created some strain on the supply chain.

“Representatives of the dairy industry, including American Farm Bureau, have stepped up to the plate and have been advocating on behalf of the farmer to talk about solutions and ask for workable solutions,” Amato said. “Every day, dairy farmers are producing more milk and working to provide our consumers with the products they desire.”

For more than a century, MFBF and American Farm Bureau Federation have advocated on behalf of farmers and provided them with support. To join online and show support for the Massachusetts dairy producers, people may visit <http://www.farmbureau.co/online-application/>.

To understand more about the challenges of milk production during COVID-19, people may visit <https://www.fb.org/viewpoints/an-open-letter-to-consumers-about-milk>.

AdCare provides virtual family educational program

WORCESTER – Amidst colliding opioid and COVID-19 epidemics, AdCare Outpatient Services is taking its complimentary Family Educational Program online the last Wednesday of every month from 6-7:30 p.m., starting May 27.

The Family Educational Program will be presented by an AdCare expert and will focus on how substance use disorder changes the brain and impacts families. “Accessing our Family Educational Program virtually will enable families throughout our regions to gain valuable information in the safest manner possible,” said Jane Jolly, director of outpatient operations.

People can join from their computer, tablet, or smartphone: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/407892957>. Dial in using your phone: United States: +(646) 749-3122. Access Code: 407-892-957#. Learn more about AdCare’s Family Programs: <https://adcare.com/programs/family/>

Public Notices

TOWN OF NEW BRAintree NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

In accordance with Zoning By-laws, the Town of New Braintree Planning Board will hold a public hearing on **Monday, June 22, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.** in the New Braintree Town Hall for the purpose of issuing gravel permits.

This meeting is open to the public and all are invited to attend. Please note that all safety procedures will be followed in regards to the Covid-19 pandemic. Please remain 6 feet from each other and wear a mask at all times.

6/04, 6/11/2020

Town of Barre HEARING NOTICE Pole Petition

Under the provisions of the General Laws of Massachusetts, Chapter 166, and any additions or amendments thereto, please be advised that at their meeting of **Monday, July 6, 2020 at**

6:30pm held either at the Henry Woods Building, 40 West Street, or alternatively virtually on the Zoom platform, login information can be found on mytown-government.org/01005, the Barre Board of Selectmen will consider a request to give Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a NATIONAL GRID and Verizon New England, Inc. permission to install (1) JO pole 54-50 on South Barre Rd. beginning at a point approximately 645 feet north of the centerline of the intersection of Clem St. and South Barre Rd. and continuing approximately 20 feet in an eastern direction. National Grid to install new pole 54-50 between poles 54 and 55 South Barre Rd., Barre, MA. If you have any questions you can contact the Select Board’s Office at (978) 355-2504 x 135.

For the Board of Selectmen

Sandra Hood Administrative Assistant
 6/11, 6/18/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts The Trial Court Probate and Family Court Worcester Division 225 Main Street Worcester, MA 01608 (508)831-2000 Docket No. WO20P1301EA Estate of: James Frederick Messier Also Known As: James F. Messier Date of Death: February 19, 2020 INFORMAL PROBATE PUBLICATION NOTICE

To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner **Jamie A. Farrell** of South Barre, MA.

Jamie A. Farrell of South Barre, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without** surety on the bond.

The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the

Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.

6/11/2020



PALMER OFFICE

GRAPHICS DEPARTMENT SEEKS PART TIME DESIGNER / PAGINATOR

Turley Publications, Inc. is looking for an experienced **Graphic Designer** to produce newspaper pages and advertisements in a busy, fast-paced environment. Must be efficient with InDesign Creative Suite. Web design and Wordpress skills a plus.

We will consider less experienced applicants but must have proven design skills.

Design samples required. Send with resume to:

Turley Publications, Inc., 24 Water St., Palmer, MA 01069
 Attention: Graphics Manager

Or e-mail directly to dsloat@turley.com.

No phone calls or drop-ins, please.

PUBLIC NOTICES ARE NOW ONLINE

1 Email all notices to notices@turley.com

2 Access archives and digital tear sheets by newspaper title.

3 Find a quick link to the state of Massachusetts’ public notice web site to search all notices in Massachusetts newspapers.

Public notice deadlines are Mondays at noon, Fridays noon for Monday holidays.

visit www.publicnotices.turley.com

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NEWS & FEATURES

As a paper of record, we attempt to cover all general news, personality profiles, and community features that we know about. This includes all selectmen and school committee meetings as well as spot planning board, board of health, finance, and other town meetings determined by the issue’s relevance to our readers. There are the annual major community event features that we should always cover, but we are more than open to suggestions of other features to celebrate the fabric of our communities and their many interesting occupants. Our loyal advertisers provide funding for this paid staff coverage.

For more information on news or community features for the Barre Gazette, please email edowner@turley.com.

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This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate that is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertising in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain about discrimination call The Department of Housing and Urban Development "HUD" toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. For the N.E. area, call HUD at 617-565-5308. The toll free number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.

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Second Chance volunteers create poorly drawn pet portraits

EAST BROOKFIELD – Second Chance Animal Services volunteers have found a fun way to help pets in need from their home thanks to a creative fundraiser sweeping across the nation. Volunteer artists are creating pet portraits for the nonprofits Poorly Drawn Pets FUNdraiser.

For a small donation, volunteers turn provided photos into portraits. The catch is that people never know, which volunteer artist is going to create their masterpiece. It may be created by a seasoned artist, who has honed their skills for years or it could be a seven-year-old looking for something to do after distance learning. The results, so far, have been great portraits and a lot of fun.

“Volunteers have been unable to volunteer in person since mid-March due to the COVID-19 outbreak,” reports Second Chance CEO Sheryl Blancato. “Many have been reaching out to see what they can do to help while they are sidelined at home and one volunteer saw this idea and shared it with our staff.”

Blancato says she is amazed by the artistic talent of the group of volunteers helping with the portraits. “Each artist brings their own style to the portraits. I look forward to the daily Facebook posts featuring a gallery of new artwork.” Blancato is currently waiting for a portrait of two of her pets.

The fundraiser inspired Second

Chance to create a volunteer from home program nicknamed Create 4 Critters. The program was launched with two other projects in addition to the pet portraits: creating catnip mice to help entertain feline shelter pets and creating one of a kind quilt and crochet squares, which will be assembled to be auctioned off at a later date.

Poorly Drawn Pets was originally planned just for Facebook, but Second Chance received many requests from people who don’t use social media, so the fundraiser is now available on the secondchanceanimals.org website.

Second Chance is a nonprofit 501c3 tax-exempt organization that began in 1999 in East Brookfield

and relies solely on donations from grants to operate. The organization operates an adoption center in East Brookfield, Community Veterinary Hospitals in North Brookfield, Springfield and Worcester. Second Chance helps over 40,000 pets a year through adoption, spay/neuter, veterinary care, community outreach, educational outreach programs, training, and a pet food pantry.

For more information, people may visit Second Chance’s website at www.secondchanceanimals.org, follow Second Chance on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/secondchanceanimals> or follow Second Chance on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/secondchanceas>.



This a portrait of Moxie. More portraits may be found on Second Chance Facebook Page: @second-chanceanimals.

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The original photo of Moxie.

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